State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES Division of Aquatic Resources Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 13, 2007

Board of Land and Natural Resources Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS (NWHI) RESEARCH PERMIT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR DR. JASON BAKER, OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, VALID FROM APRIL 1, 2007 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2007, TO INCLUDE KURE ATOLL.

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) hereby submits a request for authorization and approval by the Board, to amend the NWHI Research Permit previously approved for applicant Dr. Jason Baker of NMFS, NOAA, pursuant to § 13-60.5, *Hawaii Administrative Rules*, and § 187A-6, *Hawaii Revised Statutes*, and all other applicable law and regulations. The Research Permit Amendment adds Kure Atoll to the locations listed on the permit that was previously approved by the Board at its regular meeting on March 23, 2007.

FINAL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Kure Atoll was included on the original permit application and subsequent permit reviews, but was inadvertently omitted on the Board of Land and Natural Resources permit approval request submittal. Therefore, DAR staff is submitting this amendment to rectify the omission.

No further changes are proposed other than to add Kure Atoll as one of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands approved for access and activities as indicated in the previously approved permit. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), which has primary responsibility for the Hawaii State Seabird Sanctuary at Kure Atoll, was contacted. DOFAW indicated that a landing permit has already been issued for this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize and approve the amendment to the Research Permit approved by the Board on March 23, 2007 to Dr. Jason Baker of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for activities and access within the State waters of the NWHI for the purpose of monk seal research."

Respectfully submitted,

DAN POLHEMUS

Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL

PETER T. YOUNG

Chairperson